# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# AGRICULTURE
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5468
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2005
BASMATI RICE
Shaheen Shri Abdul Rashid

**Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government proposes to encourage the farmers to grow the superior quality of Basmati Rice of international standard to make a break through in export and earn more foreign exchange for the country; and

(b) if so, the incentives proposed to be given to growers/farmers in this regard?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA):

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Central Government has been encouraging production of superior quality of Basmati Rice for export. For increasing the production and productivity of rice including Basmati Rice in the country, Central Government has been implementing Integrated Cereals Development Programmeâ€"Rice (ICDP-Rice) under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture. Further, three Agri-Export Zones (AEZ) for Basmati Rice, one each in Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Uttaranchal States, have been notified.

The Agri-Export Zones (AEZ) concept is an end-to-end approach for over all development of produce grown in geographically contiguous area. Under Agri-Export Zone, the state government identify farmers and specific areas of agronomic practices in which they need training. Such trainings are imparted through experts in the respective area drawn from various agencies of Central Government, State Government, Research Institutes and Agriculture Universities.

In addition, farmers also easy credit for inputs under Agri-Export Zone. This helps them to use inputs of good quality and thus enhance the quality of the produce. Under Agri-Export Zone concept, focus is also on relevant research and development aimed at over all improvement of the produce. Farmers are also benefited through the marketing access at better prices.